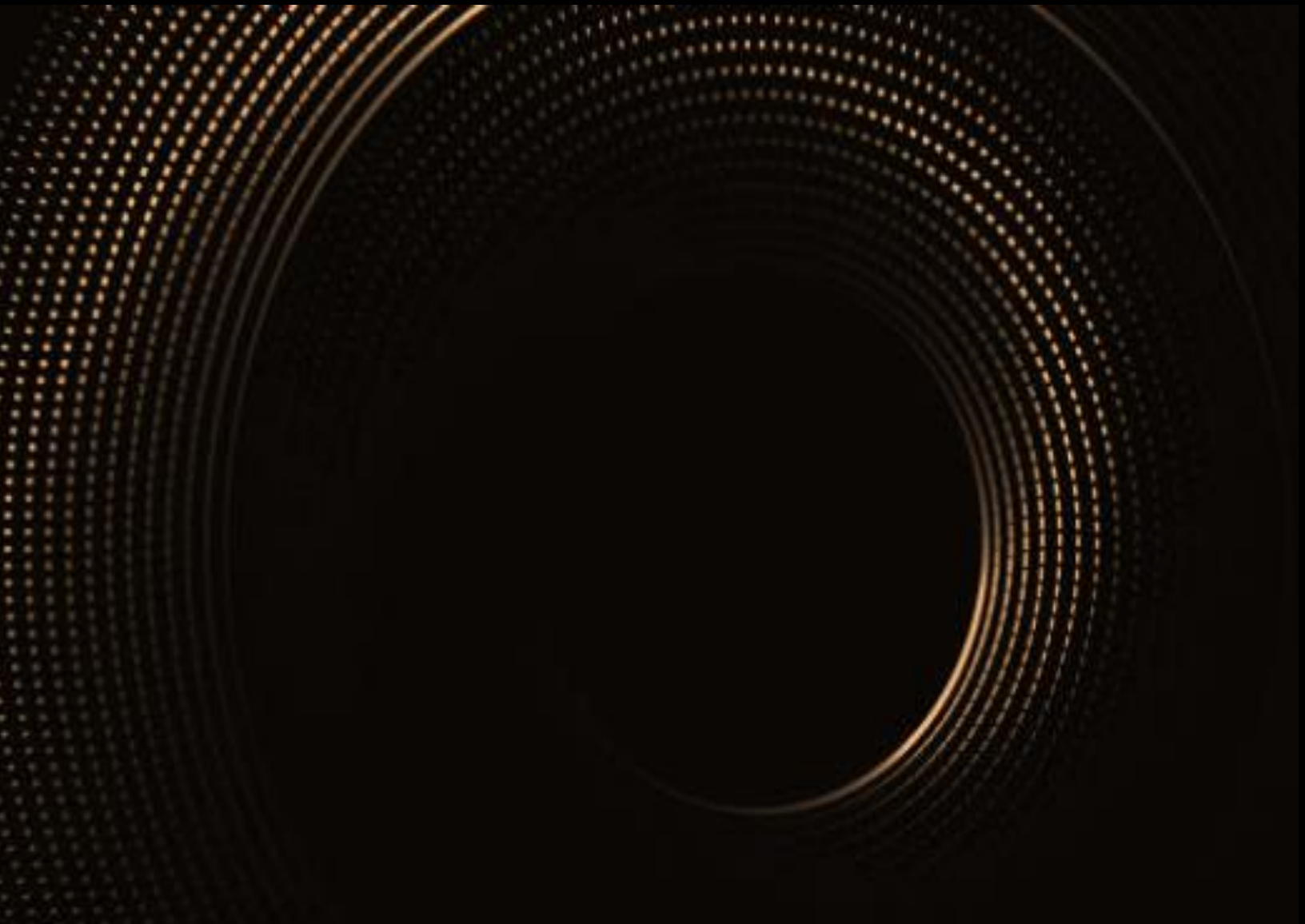


# July 1

**Romans 16:17, 18**

**“Mark and Avoid”**



<sup>17</sup> Now I beseech you, **brethren**, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. <sup>18</sup> For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but **their own belly**; and by **good words and fair speeches** **deceive** the hearts of the simple.

It's terribly sad how this passage is so often misused, especially in cults as well as in cult-like religious organizations.

When individuals begin to deeply think for themselves, and question, and investigate the personal lives of their leaders and what they are really saying in comparison to rightly divided Scripture, they are hit hard with a misapplication of these two verses.

They are demanded to stay away from anyone who is

different from their group  
or who thinks differently  
from their leaders.

Unfortunately, it is often  
their own religious or cult  
leaders who do not serve  
Messiah and, instead,  
serve “their own belly”.

They are continuously  
cheating the people out  
of their money and keeping

the “brethren” in mental,  
financial, and spiritual  
bondage. Indeed, they use  
“good words and fair  
speeches” to deceive.

They absolutely are expert  
at modulating their voices  
and positioning their bodies  
at just the right way and time  
to elicit whatever emotion  
they are pursuing, all for  
the purpose of deceiving.

They, those ungodly religious, as well as secular leaders, are the ones who should be marked and avoided. THEY are the ones who cause divisions and offenses. Unfortunately too many people do not know biblical doctrine so they fall for the meticulously twisted Scripture. They reject sound, chain-breaking, freedom-making knowledge

and wisdom and continue  
to accept the trickery.

The doctrine they have  
learned consists of blatant  
and subtle lies but they are  
told to stick to that because  
it is “the doctrine they  
have learned”.

The congregations mark and  
avoid the wrong ones—those  
who would have them set

free, while continuing to listen to fantastic fraud.

It really is a dreadful shame and it happens far too often that people mark and avoid the very wrong ones.

When serious students of Scripture obtain copies of the oldest biblical text (such as the 1611 KJV, Geneva, Matthew's, and



Great Bible) there can be real spiritual growth. There would be no need to just listen to online influencers when there is personal and in-depth reading.

When Great Spirit, rather than others, including religious leaders, is sought for understanding, then how to mark and avoid cult-like, unholy individuals and

groups can be known and  
can be properly practiced.

True Believers, as guided  
by the Holy Spirit, can  
justifiably and correctly  
mark and avoid those who  
“cause divisions and  
offences contrary to the  
doctrine” they have  
learned, because they  
have understood the  
right doctrine.